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FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS ON "THE MEO OF NORTHEAST LAOS":

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1. PAGE 3, PARA 3 QUESTION USE OF TERM "THEIR LAO HOST".
MEO HAVE BEEN PART OF THE LAO GOVERNMENT FOR MANY YEARS OCCUPYING MANY GOVERNMENT JOBS INCLUDING MINISTERIAL POSTS. TOUBY LI FONG SERVED AS MINISTER OF WELFARE IN THE EARLY 1960'S. OTHER MEO SERVED AS POLICEMEN, TEACHERS AND IN MINOR GOVERNMENT POSTS, PRIMARILY IN XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE, BUT ALSO IN VIENTIANE AND OTHER AREAS.
2. PAGE 4, PARA 4: SUGGEST ADDING THAT THE MEO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY SCHOOLING AVAILABLE BY EAGERLY ENROLLING THEIR CHILDREN. THOSE MEO WITH MONEY OR INFLUENCE PLACE HIGH PRIORITY ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO THAILAND, EUROPE, OR USA WHEN POSSIBLE.
3. PAGE 6, PARA 13: OMIT DOGS, TO MY KNOWLEDGE NVA EAT THEM BUT NOT MEO.

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4. PAGE 14, PARA 30: BELIEVE THE LAO OPINION OF THE MEO WAS NOT QUITE THIS BAD, AS NOTED ABOVE THEY SERVED IN GOVERNMENT POSTS AND ATTENDED GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE, ETC., PRIOR TO 1961.

5. PAGE 15, PARA 31: TOUBY LY FONG WAS A NATIONAL LEVEL (MINISTRY OF WELFARE) FIGURE IN 1961. THIS PARAGRAPH IS ERRONEOUS.

6. PAGE 16, PARA 35: THE MEO DOMINATED THE OTHER TRIBES. THOUGH LAO THEUNG AND OTHER TRIBAL ELEMENTS JOINED WITH THE MEO IN PREFERENCE TO THE LAOTIANS, THEY STILL DO NOT APPROVE OF THE IDEA OF THE MEO RULING THE ROOST.

7. PER PARA 32, PAGE 15: TO ILLUSTRATE THE REASON WHY THE MEOS SHOULD GIVE THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE LAO NATION, VAN PAO HAS OFTEN SAID TO HIS PEOPLE THAT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE LARGE MEO POPULATIONS IN THAILAND, BURMA, CHINA AND VIETNAM ONLY IN LAOS IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A MEO TO BE GENERAL IN THE ARMY.

8. REGARDING THE SECTION ON LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN VANG PAO: LEAVE THIS TO VIENTIANE AND [] TO COMMENT ON SINCE IT HAD NOT OCCURRED IN MID-1968, WHEN [] LEFT LAOS.

9. PAGE 37, PARA 36: OVER THE PAST ELEVEN YEARS VANG PAO HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ROYAL

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THAI GOVERNMENT. SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE KING REGARD VANG PAO AS A RELIABLE ANTI-COMMUNIST WHO CAN BE TRUSTED. BELIEVE VANG PAO HAS LONG REALIZED THAT IF HIS PEOPLE MUST MOVE FROM THEIR CURRENT HOMELAND THEN SAYABOURI IS THE LIKELY AREA FOR RESETTLEMENT. A MOVE TO SAYABOURI WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY MEAN THAT THE MEOS MUST SPILL OVER INTO NAN PROVINCE OF THAILAND WHICH WOULD REQUIRE RTG SUPPORT. AT THE SAME TIME A MEO LEADER OF VANG PAO'S STATURE GIVING HIS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION TO SECURING A SAFEHAVEN FOR THE TRIBE WOULD LIKELY BE A POWERFUL ATTRACTION TO THE MANY MEOS NOW INVOLVED IN THE THAI INSURGENCY. NEITHER THE COMMUNISTS NOR THE RTG ARE LIKELY TO PRODUCE A MEO LEADER IN THE NEAR FUTURE WHO COULD COMPETE WITH VANG PAO. GP-1

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